

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01220 211224Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----211312Z 023041 /53  
R 211135Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 091  
INFO USUN NEW YORK 1010

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1220

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, SW, SF  
SUBJECT: PALME VISIT TO UN

REF: STOCKHOLM 1219

1. BY SEPARATE CABLE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED FORTHCOMING VISIT OF OPPOSITION LEADER OLOF PALME TO UN THIS WEEK FOR PARTICIPATION IN DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT ANY PLANS WOULD BE LIKELY FOR A USG INVITATION TO PALME TO VISIT WASHINGTON, SUCH A POSSIBILITY ALWAYS EXISTS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS SIMPLY TO COUNSEL AGAINST ANY SUCH INVITATION AT THIS TIME.

2. PALME IS, AS EVERYONE KNOWS, A POLITICAL LEADER OF WORLD RENOWN, AND HE IS ESPECIALLY PERSONA GRATA IN THE THIRD WORLD, PARTICULARLY AFRICA. HE ALSO REMAINS THE LEADER OF THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND AS SUCH LIKELY TO BE PRIME MINISTER AGAIN AT SOME STAGE. DESPITE US PROBLEMS IN THE PAST WITH PALME OVER VIETNAM, THEREFORE, THERE ARE STRONG REASONS FOR US TO REMAIN ON GOOD TERMS WITH HIM: AT SOME TIME, AN INVITATION FOR A VISIT TO WASHINGTON WOULD MAKE GOOD SENSE.

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 01220 211224Z

3. BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME. IN THE FIRST PLACE, NONE OF THE MINISTERS OF THE NEW NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT HAS YET VISITED WASHINGTON (FINANCE MINISTER BOHMAN WILL BE THERE FOR A MULTILATERAL MEETING IN APRIL, AND FOREIGN MINISTER SODER WILL, WE HOPE, PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT IN JUNE); TO HAVE PALME THERE BEFORE ANY NEW GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES--ESPECIALLY AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF

OUR VIETNAM DIFFERENCES--WOULD BE A FAUX PAS. SECONDLY, THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT IS GOING THROUGH A ROCKY TIME RIGHT NOW, AND THE PAPERS ARE FULL OF RUMORS--NO DOUBT EXAGGERATED--ABOUT A POSSIBLE SPLIT OVER THE NUCLEAR ENERGY QUESTION AND EVEN NEW ELECTIONS. (WE WILL BE REPORTING THIS SEPARATELY.) WITH THIS KIND OF POLITICAL BREW BOILING, IT WOULD BE A PARTICULARLY INAPPROPRIATE TIME TO SHOW ANY SPECIAL FAVOR TO THE OPPOSITION LEADER.

4. WITH APOLOGIES FOR POSSIBLY BELABORING THE OBVIOUS, WE RECOMMEND THAT ANY CONSIDERATION THAT MIGHT BE GIVEN TO AN INVITATION TO WASHINGTON FOR PALME BE PUT OFF TO A LATER DATE.

SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009